

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9506

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 4019

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SN, CB

SUBJ: MARSHAL LON NOL' LETTER TO PM LEE

KHMER AMBASSADOR WONGSANITH GAVE ME FOLLOWING "INFORMAL
TRANSLATION" LETTER ADDRESSED TO PM LEE FROM MARSHAL
LON NOL, DATED OCTOBER 1.
QOUTE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

IT IS VERY REASSURING TO NOTE THAT THE FRIENDLY
RELATIONS EXISTING BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES CONTINUE
TO DEVELOP AND ARE BEING STRENGTHENED DAILY. ON THIS
OCCASION I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS TO YOU, YET AGAIN, MY
WARMEST GRATITUDE FOR YOUR PERSONAL ROLE IN STRENGTHENING
OUR TIES OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION, AND FOR THE
CONSTANT SUPPORT WHICH YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS RENDERED TO THE
YOUNG KHMER REPUBLIC, WHICH IS FIGHTING AGAINST A BAR-
BAROUS AGGRESSION PERPETRATED BY THE INDOCHINESE COM-
MUNIST FRONT.

IN THE FACE OF SUCH A FRONT, THE KHMER PEOPLE ARE
DETERMINED TO RESIST IN ORDER TO DEFEND THEIR FREEDOM,
INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. BY FORCE OF
CIRCUMSTATNCES BEING OBLIGED TO FIGHT IN THE VANGUARD OF
SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES, OUR PEOPLE HIGHLY APPRECIATE
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THE FIRM SUPPORT THAT ALL FRIENDLY COUNTRIES ARE PROVIDING,

AMONG WHICH THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE IS IN THE FRONT RANK. I DARE TO TRUST, EXCELLENCY, THAT THIS INVALUABLE SUPPORT ON THE PART OF YOUR COUNTRY WILL CONTINUE, BECAUSE IT SERVES NOT ONLY THE INTEREST OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC, BUT ALSO THE CAUSE OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN OUR REGION AS WELL AS IN THE WORLD, IN GENERAL.

I BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR ALL PEACE AND JUSTICE-LOVING NATIONS TO MAKE A CONCERTED EFFORT TO COMPEL THE NORTH VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS AND THE VIET CONG TO RESPECT THE ACCORDS, WHICH THEY HAVE SOLEMNLY SIGNED, BY WITHDRAWING ALL OF THEIR FORCES FROM KHMER TERRITORY. IT WOULD SEEM TO ME ADVISABLE TO ENDEAVOR TO STEM NOW, BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE, THEIR EXPANSION WHICH WILL SURELY SPREAD TO OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION IF THE KHMER REPUBLIC SUCCUMBS.

MY GOVERNMENT POSSESSES IRREFUTABLE EVIDENCE OF THIS. ON SEPTEMBER 3, 1973, THE KHMER NAVY SEIZED IMPORTANT VIETNAMESE-LANGUAGE DOCUMENTS IN THE COURSE OF AN OPERATION IN THE AREA BETWEEN SUNG CHINIT AND TONLE SAP RIVERS IN KOMPONG CHHNANG PROVINCE. ONE OF THE DOCUMENTS, DATED JULY 6, 1973, WHICH EMANATES FROM THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST PARTY, REVEALS THE EXISTENCE AT KOMPONG CHHNANG OF AN ASSOCIATION OF VIETNAMESE AFFILIATED WITH THE MILITARY AND SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZATION OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND VIET CONG. THIS DOCUMENT URGES ETHNIC VIETNAMESE, THROUGH THE MEDIATION OF THE ABOVE ASSOCIATION, TO ENROLL IN THE AGGRESSOR FORCES AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUPPORT OF THEIR TROOPS.

THESE DOCUMENTS SPEAK OF THE VICTORY OF EXPANDING COMMUNISM AND ENJOIN ETHNIC VIETNAMESE IN THE KHMER REPUBLIC TO (1) SUPPORT THE KHMER ROUGE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE KHMER GOVERNMENT AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND (2) MAKE A MAXIMUM EFFORT TO COMMUNIZE SOUTH VIET NAM AND AID NORTH VIET NAM IN ITS WORK OF REUNIFICATION. IN THEIR DOCUMENTS, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND VIET CONG ALSO CLEARLY ASSERT THEIR ACTUAL PARTICIPATION IN THE MOST RECENT ATTACKS ON NATIONAL HIGHWAY NO. 5, ALONG THE TONLE SAP RIVER
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AND AROUND THE CAPITAL.

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THE OCCASION, MOREOVER, TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION TWO CRIMES PERPETRATED BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND VIET CONG COMMUNISTS IN VIOLATION OF THE SPIRIT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER.

A - DURING THEIR RECENT OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE CITY OF

KOMPONG CHAM, THEY COMMITTED ATROCITIES OF A SAVAGERY WHICH IS UNWORTHY OF MANKIND TOWARD THE CIVIL POPULATION BY MASSACRING THE AGED, MONKS, WOMEN, CHILDREN AND THE DEFENSELESS SICK AND WOUNDED. EVEN THE KOMPONG CHAM HOSPITAL WAS DELIBERATELY ATTACKED: IN THEIR SAVAGERY, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND VIET CONG MURDERED ALL THE SICK AND INJURED BY GRENADING THEM AND FIRING UPON THEM WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPONS. SEVERAL SURVIVORS WHO RAN FOR THE EXITS WERE FINISHED OFF WITH COLD STEEL.

OUR TEACHERS, SICKENED BY THIS BARBARISM , HAVE SOLEMNLY APPEALED TO THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD.

OBSERVERS OF GOOD FAITH HAVE BEEN DEEPLY OUTRAGED BY THESE BARBARISMS WHICH CONSTITUTE SO MANY CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY.

B - A SECOND CRIMINAL ACT IS THE ATTACK AT THE END OF AUGUST 1973 AGAINST THE INSTALLATIONS OF THE PREK THNOT IRRIGATION DAM, A WORK BUILT AND FINANCED UNDER UN AUSPICES WHICH HAS NO MILITARY CHARACTER WHATSOEVER.

IN A PARALLEL DIRECTION WITH THE SITUATION IN THE KHMER REPUBLIC, THE SITUATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM, IT SEEMS TO ME, IS STILL FAR FROM PEACEFUL INASMUCH AS THE PARIS ACCORDS ARE NOT BEING RESPECTED BY THE COMMUNIST SIDE. ON THE ONE HAND, THE RECENT REFURBISHING AND EXPANSION OF AIRBASES AND THE INSTALLATION OF NEW MISSILE BASES IN THE ZONES PROVISIONALLY OCCUPIED BY THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS SOUTH OF THE 17 PARALLEL CONSTITUTE VISIBLE EVIDENCE OF THE PURSUIT OF WAR. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE IMPLANATION OF NORTH VIETNAMESE AND VIET CONG IN KHMER TERRITORY ALONG THE FRONTIER WITH THE REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM
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THREATENS THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM WITH A POSSIBLE FLANK ATTACK.

IN THE FACE OF THIS VERY DANGEROUS SITUATION, I AM PERSONNALLY CONVINCED THAT PEACE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM CONTINUES TO BE THREATENED AS LONG AS THE NORTH VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST STAY IN THAT COUNTRY AND AS LONG AS THEY KEEP THEIR FORCES AND THOSE OF THEIR VIET CONG AUXILIARIES ON KHMER TERRITORY, WHICH SERVES AS A SANCTUARY AND A BASE FOR ATTACKS AGAINST THE REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM.

I COUNT ON YOUR EXCELLENCY AND THE REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OF WHICH YOUR COUNTRY IS A MEMBER FOR HELP IN FINDING A SOLUTION TO THIS URGENT PROBLEM, A SOLUTION UPON WHICH THE STABILITY OF ALL SOUTHEAST ASIA DEPENDS.

I THANK YOU IN ADVANCE, EXCELLENCY, FOR THE FRIENDLY
WELCOME YOU HAVE RESERVED FOR MY SPECIAL ENVOY, MAJOR
GENERAL SAK SUTSAKHAN, WHOM I HAVE CHARGED TO GIVE YOU
ALL NECESSARY DETAILS REGARDING THE MATTERS SET FORTH
ABOVE.

IN APOLOGIZING FOR HAVING TAKEN YOUR VALUABLE TIME,
I ASK THAT YOU ACCEPT, EXCELLENCY, THE RENEWED ASSURANCES
OF MY VERY HIGH CONSIDERATION. SIGNED: MARSHAL LON NOL.
END QUOTE.
CRONK

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